

Cook, Veronica Teresa (nee O'Hagan) of Northeast El Paso died peacefully on January 22, 2009 from leukemia at the age of 88.

She was a woman of great faith who embraced life with grace, dignity and fortitude. She lived each moment with a spirit of gratitude, patience and a sense of humor. She was gifted with a keen insight and compassion for her family, friends, and the community of Most Holy Trinity parish. She was a gifted teacher of young children and shared this gift for many years teaching kindergarten and Religious Education at Most Holy Trinity School. She mentored her students with concern and continually remembered them in her prayers. The world will be better because she was important in the life of a child and every child was her child even those she never knew.

She was married sixty-six years ago at St. Ephraim Church in Brooklyn, New York to her beloved and devoted husband, John F. Cook Sr., a Veteran of World War II who continued to serve his country in Military service.

She was cherished by her children Veronica T. Cook of New York, John F. Cook Jr., Mayor of El Paso, Michael D. Cook of Los Angeles, Edward J. Cook of Cleveland, Joan C. Keating of Colorado Springs, Edna M. Benson of Boulder, Colorado, and Kevin P. Cook of El Paso. She was a devoted mother to her daughters-in law Tram Pho Cook, Diane Yung Cook, Diane Costanzo Cook, Carmen Ugarte, and to her sons-in-law Michael Keating, and Phil Benson.

She was the dearly loved daughter of John and Catherine (nee Mullin) O'Hagan. Her father, John O' Hagan was a distinguished New Yorker and Grand Marshall of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1929.

She is survived by her brother John O' Hagan of Vail, Arizona and pre-deceased by her brothers Charles, George and Alfred O' Hagan, and her sisters Sarah Anchor, Mary Tims and Sister Joan Catherine O' Hagan, M.M. (Maryknoll Missioner).

She is the beloved Grandmother of Dr. John Montorello, Richard Montorello, Maria Montorello Ward, David M. Cook, Jennifer Cook, Suzanne Cook Moody, Joseph Edward Cook (deceased), James Keating, Patricia Keating Porras, Sean Keating, Caitlin Keating, Damien Cook, David Brian Cook, Naomi A. Cook, Sarah Benson, Teresa Benson, and Great-grandmother of Krystal Montorello Menchey, Amanda Ward, Megan Ward, William Ward, Bella Dillman Cook, Christian Moody, Jaydon Moody, Alyssa Moody, Bryan Kazuo Cook, Dylan Blystone, Amber Blystone, Kelly Blystone, Debbie Lowely, Shawn Lowely, Nathan Cook, Patrick Keating Fandy, and Erin Keating Fandy and the proud Great-Great Grandmother of Kaylee Menchey. She was joyfully awaiting the birth of her great-grandson John Everett Cook in March.

In addition to her immediate family, and nieces and nephews she leaves behind many friends and the city she loved, El Paso, her home for thirty-six years. She was indebted to Dr. Jesus Gomez and to all who gave her gentle loving care at Sierra and Providence hospitals. She was indebted to Norma Castillo and her neighbor, Dr. Vanley and to all who provided her with spiritual comfort and prayer. She will be sorely missed by all who loved her. Our comfort is in knowing that we are united in faith, hope and love in the Communion of Saints until we see her again face to face.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Center Against Family Violence in El Paso, or to The Maryknoll Missions at Maryknoll Sisters Convent P.O. Box 311 Ossining, New York 10545-0311.